

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Official Action dated October 3, 2007. Claims 1, 4, 7, 12, and 17 have been amended, and claims 2, 5, 8, and 13 have been canceled; as such claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-12, and 14-17 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 7, 12, and 17 are independent claims. Reconsideration and allowance is requested in view of the claim amendments and the following remarks. No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the acknowledgement of priority under 35 USC § 119.

Applicant acknowledges that the drawings have been accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-11, and 13-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but which would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 4, 7, and 12 have been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 5, 8, and 13, respectively. Furthermore, claim 17 has been amended to include similar subject matter to that recited in former claims 2, 5, 8, and 13. Therefore, it is submitted that amended independent claims 1, 4, 7, 12 and 17 and any corresponding dependent claims are also allowable, in view of the Examiner's previous consideration of allowability of the subject matter added to these claims.

Rejections under 35.U.S.C. § 101

Claim 17 has been rejected under 35.U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject-matter.

Applicant has amended Claim 17 to properly claim a software program stored on a computer readable medium.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35.U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 4, 7, 12 and 17 have been rejected under 35.U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Publication 2002/0001472 to Ohmura et al.

By this amendment, each of independent claims 1, 4, 7, 12 and 17 have been placed in allowable form through the incorporation of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the rejection as to these claims, and to those claims dependent thereon, is now moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2969 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 31, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By

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